

Attorney Docket No. US.03.036
USSN 10/667,648

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the amendments above and remarks below is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 - 18 are currently before the Examiner. Claim 1 has been amended and claim 8 has been cancelled herein.

Claims 1-7 and 14-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Seltzer *et al.* (US Pat. No. 4,168,364). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In response, applicants have initially amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of original claim 8 to further define the alkali metal containing cure accelerator compounds. Seltzer *et al.* is directed to cyanamides of organic primary amines as curing agents. The reference only generally discloses alkali metal alcoholates, such as, for example, sodium hexametriolate, at col. 6, lines 27-35, along with other suitable accelerator compounds. In the Examples Seltzer *et al.* utilize only imidazole as a curing agent catalyst. Therefore the reference does not teach or suggest the use of the alkali metal cure accelerators of claim 1, as amended, or that such use would result in resin coated articles having enhanced thermal properties such as improved resistance to elevated temperatures as desired, for example, in printed circuit board applications. Claims 2-7 and 14-18 incorporate the limitations of claim 1 and are considered patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claims 1-5, 8-14 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Greene (US Pat. No. 6,344,520). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In response, applicants state that the present invention is directed to a process utilizing an alkali metal containing compound as a cure accelerator for epoxy resins. Greene *et al.* is directed to epoxy functional organopolysiloxane resins and coating systems. Greene *et al.* at col. 7, line 59 to col. 8, line 2, disclose a listing of catalysts all useful for condensing Si-O-R groups to Si-O-Si groups.

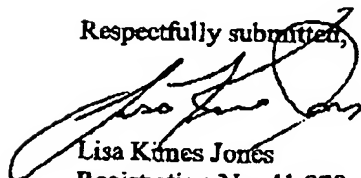
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Specifically, in their Example Resin Formulation 1, Greene *et al.* utilize KOH only as a catalyst to synthesize the new epoxy functional silane. Greene *et al.* do not utilize KOH as a cure accelerator. In fact, in the curing stage, Example Coating Formulations 2 and 3, Greene *et al.* does not utilize a cure accelerator. Therefore, Greene *et al.* do not teach or suggest utilizing an alkali metal containing compound as a cure accelerator in an epoxy resin composition for preparing a resin coated article. Claim 8 has been cancelled, and claims 2-5, 9-14 and 17 incorporate the limitations of claim 1 and are considered patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims of the present application are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or requires additional information, he is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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